

# Sounding the Trumpet

July - September 2009

**T**hrough worship, praise and thanksgiving – we are drawn by the Holy Spirit into the very *Holy of Holies*, the very presence of our Heavenly Father through the Blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for us on Calvary's cross!

How wonderful is our mighty God, he loves us to pray and talk personally with him, to praise him and shout his holy name. So then, its only right that we should try and help to lead others into this holy communion with God through his Holy Spirit.

Ian Rowley



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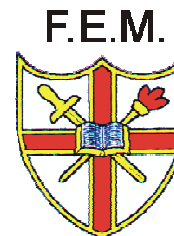
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## Church Mice



# Sounding the Trumpet

Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries  
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**T**his is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines.

Of course, I do not mean the Christ of Partyism. Some say, "I belong to Christ," just in order to dodge issues. There was a Christ-party in Corinth along with the Paul-party, the Cephas-party and the Apollos-party. And they were as bad as the others and maybe a little worse! Christ does not exclude Paul and Cephas and Apollos, He includes them. All the Gospel preachers are ours because we are Christ's. The only thing that is not ours is us, we are not our own, we are bought with a price.

Certainly I do not mean the Christ of modernism. That is a false Christ. My Christ is the virgin-born Son of God who lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary, atoning death, rose bodily from the grave and is coming again to reign.

Some years ago, while preaching in a small Southern town, I was walking around one afternoon meditating on the evening message. I became impressed that I needed to preach "Jesus Only" more than I had been doing. I remember that I asked the Lord to confirm that impression by giving me one soul that night. Evening came and I preached. I gave the invitation but no one responded. As I pronounced the benediction, I thought, "Lord, where is the soul I asked for?" Before the "amen" was reached a downpour of rain set in, so that the people could not get home. A man came to me and asked that we might pray together. We went to a small room and there he received Christ as his Saviour. I have thought of that incident many times since and have tried to be true to the impression it confirmed.

There is only one safe and sure centre of Christian experience, doctrine and testimony and that is Jesus Christ. Stand at any other point, no matter how good, and you will become lopsided. Stand with Him and you keep your balance, for by Him all things consist.

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"He that has but one word of God before him, and out of that word cannot make a sermon, can never be a preacher"

Martin Luther

"Once it was the blessing,  
Now it is the Lord."

How we like to make a Santa Claus of the Lord, seeking only His gifts! Happy are we when we seek the Giver rather than the gift and can both sing and pray:

"Now Thee alone I seek,  
Give what is best."

My message therefore is simply Jesus Christ. He is enough. Of course we are familiar with the fact that Christ is the Christian's life and message, but we need to familiarize ourselves with the familiar. We assume what we ought to assert. He is the hub, but too many of us are out on our favourite spokes like owls on different limbs. When we stand at the hub all the spokes are ours. And the closer we are to the hub the closer we are to all the spokes!

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"When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me"

John Wesley

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# The Sin Syndrome

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin” (Romans 6:1-7).

**H**ow much worse can society and the world get? It seems that evil men continue to invent new ways to sin against God, others and their own bodies. In fact there is no pit too deep that man will not stoop to. The church has lost its way, and her ministers no longer care about the seriousness of sin. Most believers think that God does not mind their sin as long as they have accepted Christ as Saviour. The devil has inoculated many against the affects of the sin virus. They are happy to go on sinning because they know they are saved? How sad!

## The power of cancelled sin

The Scriptures speak of sin on an entirely different level than the modern-day preacher. God had only two choices when sin entered the world through Adam. Either destroy the human race or send a Saviour who would pay the supreme penalty for sin. No angel or created being could redeem mankind from sin; therefore it had to be God Himself, in the person of His Son, who would have to be the sacrifice for sin. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting

some well-known and many unknown, analyzing the situation and prescribing the remedy. I have tried to move among all groups belonging to as few as possible in order that I might be the servant of all. It has been and still is a rich and rewarding experience, for in this day of apostasy there are many precious souls all over the land who fear the Lord and speak often one to another. They have many faults and failings but I had rather take Bible Christians at their worst than this world at its best. I bless God for the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

Out of all this I have come to a fixed conclusion: the issue is simply Jesus Christ. Spurgeon said: “In the days of Paul the sum and substance of theology was Jesus Christ. I am not ashamed to vow myself a Calvinist. I do not hesitate to take the name of Baptist. But if you ask what is my creed, I must answer it is Jesus Christ.” One thinks of A.B. Simpson's early years of seeking this experience and that, culminating in the conclusion so well stated in his poem, beginning,

.....cut along dotted line.....

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PTO

# Jesus Only

By Vance Havner



I would like to begin with a personal testimony. My own spiritual experience has gone through three stages. I was converted at the age of ten. The next year I became a preacher and for some years thereafter preached a simple Gospel message.

Later I moved into a more liberal position. It was during these halcyon days just after the first World War. Dreams of world peace and human brotherhood were challenging youthful enthusiasm. Certain modernist preachers were becoming popular and their new approach seemed to set forth the old wine in new bottles. It was evident to me later that the old wine was thrown out with the old bottles but I had not discovered that as yet. I felt that the time had come to strike out on new trails for higher altitudes and so I began to preach about the "new position" and "outmoded categories." But the trail of the modern mind, left to itself, runs out in the wilderness, and blessed is the man who wakes up in time to how he is being deceived by these peddlers of new light. From this muddle the Lord delivered me. My first reaction was to plunge into a very stern fundamentalism. I fear that I was rather like the Scotsman who said he was open to conviction but would like to see the man who could convict him! There was a tendency to call down fire on the Samaritans and an inclination to forget what manner of spirit I was of.

For years now I have moved around among many grades and shades and varieties of conservative Christians, preaching in churches and conferences. Such a ministry ranges from staid old churches to popular Gospel tabernacles. In some places I have almost frozen, spiritually, and in others I have almost fried. I have listened to many voices,

life" (John 3:16).

Sin cannot be ignored by God, but it can be forgiven and cancelled. For over four thousand years the way of salvation was being prepared. From the blood of the animal in the Garden of Eden to the daily sacrifices in the temple, they all pointed to the great need of man, that is, an innocent party to take his place and receive the judgement on his behalf. It all paved the way for the coming of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Heaven must have been dumbstruck as Jesus left His place of glory to die on the cross of Calvary for sinners, but God had no other way to save us. Surely Heaven is heartbroken at the response to this great gift. "He came unto his own and his own received him not" (John 1:11). No wonder there is great rejoicing in Heaven when a soul gets saved! "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:7).

## Shall we continue in sin?

To live in sin is to deny Christ's reason for coming into the world to save us. A believer who persists in sin does not accept the Lordship of Christ or the cleansing power of His blood. Our opening text is clear enough to convince us of the peril of sinfulness in a believer's life. We are either freed from sin or we are not. We are either in Christ or we are not. Therefore we cannot say that we are Christians if we are determined to do as we please and ignore the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17). No amount of separation from an unclean world can make us holy, but God in His grace and mercy will if we would but trust and obey Him. Personal holiness, without His work of grace in the soul, is rejected by God.

## The Canaanite in the Lord's House

Is there another way into the Kingdom of Heaven? If there is, it is not found in Scripture. If there is, then there was absolutely

no need for Jesus to die on the cross. Therefore the person who continues in sin must be willing to accept God's judgement for not living by His standards. At one time "holiness" was over the house of God, but now "sin" is clearly emblazoned over its door. What was once abhorred as gross wickedness is now celebrated inside the church. "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts" (Zechariah 14:20-21). The Canaanite rules the church at this time, preaches from its pulpits and permits every form of abomination to be practiced. Though the Word of God is being twisted to fit in with the ungodliness of this generation, we must stand firm and uphold the only means of salvation given to us by the Lord.

### Conclusion

The church is filled with foolish preachers teaching foolish doctrines to fools who refuse to live by God's pure word. The Holy Spirit is calling believers away from the coming judgement to sanctification and holiness. "For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God" (1 Peter 4:17). True righteousness was assured for believers the moment Christ died on the cross.

*He breaks the power of cancelled sin  
He sets the prisoner free  
His blood can make the foulest clean  
His blood availed for me.  
(Charles Wesley).*

Gary J. Hall

## Preaching and Leadership Whose role is it?

There is no distinction between male and female as to whom God loves more. Both are equal, both are loved, but both have specific roles within the Church.

To work out what our roles are can be a difficult task. The service we dedicate our lives to can either be blessed by God, producing fruit, or be separate from the vine and our own agenda. This detached service produces wood, hay and stubble (1 Cor 3; 12), which will be burnt up in a flash at the judgment seat.

Women have a very important role to play within the church. The Bible tells us of great things women of faith have achieved, those who played their part through the ages. With much of the Church in decline, and lacking the real power and blessing of the Holy Ghost, could one of the reasons be that we have men doing the work of women, and women

doing the work of men? No doubt this is a controversial subject in many denominations, but the Word of God can be relied upon as absolute truth.

I believe that the scriptures - 1 Corinthians 14:33-36 and 1 Timothy 2:11-15, show us clearly God's instruction about a teaching and leadership role. It even explains the reason why, for it was Eve who was deceived. This is why I must say that teaching, leadership and authority over a man is not Biblical for women within the Church. I would pray each one of us would ask God to lead us into the work and role that He has for us, the perfect will of God (Rom 12:2), looking always to the 'Word of God' for our confirmation. From time to time I think we all need to ask, myself included, am I doing God's will?

Richard Hardy



tally amazed for I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told" (1:5).

God is in control even though all we seem to see is Satan and chaos appearing to reign.

2:3 says, "For the revelation awaits an appointed time, though it will linger wait for it, it will certainly come."

When God says something we had better believe it because it will surely happen for God always means what He says and says what He means!!!! When Gods plan is complete He will reveal His will and surprise the people.

Habakkuk 3:2 says, "LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy."

We have heard God speak to us and to the nation and to the world. And God will terrify those who hear Him and do not obey Him. Habakkuk asks God in his wrath to remember mercy. He does to those who turn to Him.

:6 "God stood and measured the earth - God looked and startled the nations (He made them tremble for fear at the sight)."

:13 You went forth for the salvation of your people, for salvation with your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the wicked. God in his judgement still remembers and comes to save His chosen ones and wins the victory over evil, causing the wicked to fail and fall.

:19 "The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places."

In the midst of evil and trouble God is our strength, He is able to keep us and to give us the needed strength to walk with and to Him. He is able to bring us through to victory and give us feet that will tread sure on the high places He has provided for each one of us.

God provides us with the mountaintop and equips us to live there. God's kingdom is not the valley but on the heights. His grace is sufficient for us to enable us to live lives that are well pleasing to him and keep us from the evil of this world. We serve a God who is able! Therefore let us rejoice and be glad in the presence and security of Him - who does the unbelievable at the unexpected time.

Michael Hewison

# Jonah

A commentary series by David Moody

## Chapter 1.

V 1. "The word of the Lord came.." In the Old Testament we read of the word of the Lord coming to and through various people a total of 241 times. This is Jonah's call because he had proved himself to God who had used him before. "He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gath-hepher." [2 Kings14:25] Here is a lesson for young people today when seeking to know where God would have them serve Him. Many think that you have to go across the sea or to some other place but serve Him where you are. Jonah began his service where he lived and was known as we see from the passages in 1 Kings and 1 Chronicles.

"..unto Jonah the son of Amitta saying." Jonah meaning 'Dove', which would indicate that Jonah was a man of mild nature because as we know a person's name in the Old Testament often suggests to us something about his character. Yet Jonah was a man of strong and bold spirit in spite of his dove-like character. His father's name means 'my truth' and this would tell us that Jonah came from a good family background. It would be good if more fathers stood for the truth of God. This would produce men and women of God guided by the fathers example in standing for the truth.

V 2. "Arise and go to Nineveh that great city and cry against it." This is Jonah's commission.

The book of Genesis tell us that Nineveh was one of the cities founded by Nimrod a leader who went against God's will and that led to the construction of the tower of Babel. Well, at any rate Nimrod became the first king and the first empire builder in Scripture. One of the first cities to be built by him

was Babel or Babylon and later built Nineveh 300 miles north of Babylon on the bank of the Tigris River.

Nineveh was approximately 9 miles around it with walls 100 ft high and four chariots wide. It was therefore known as the “impregnable city”. However many ancient writers tell of a greater Nineveh as having been 30 miles long and 14 miles wide, having swallowed up several other cities that were originally cities in their own right. According to Ch.4:11 there was at least 120,000 children there plus all their relatives. A total of between 600,000 to 1,000,000 people.

We maybe would question the choice of Jonah for the task of preaching judgement to the wicked city of Nineveh. As we have noted earlier that Jonah was a kindly, inoffensive person. We would think that he was not the right person to send to preach hell-fire to the worlds most powerful and most wicked city.

This is similar to a command the Lord gave to all of His followers. *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* [Mark 16:15] God does not choose people for who or what they are but what He, the Almighty God, can make them. One wonders why the Lord Jesus chose such an unlikely group of men to be His disciples. He by-passed the educated, cultured and intelligent but the Lord made no mistake, *“ he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* [Matt. 4:19] Let this encourage us even though we might think we are not able or of value let us not forget that God chooses *“things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.”* [1 Cor.1:28] This means that God can use a nobody and if He can use a nobody then He can use you and me.

*“..that great city and cry against it, for their wickedness is come up before me.”* It was a gentile city situated in Assyria as its capital. It was first called Nina after the patron goddess of the city and they also worshipped the god Nebo.

It was noted for it's violence and cruelty of every kind and was known as a “bloody city”. [Nahum 3:1] Nineveh was a city of witchcraft's [Nahum 3:4]. She captured and sold individuals

and families through her witchcraft.

This was where Jonah was sent to proclaim not whisper God's judgement upon Assyria. So why did he run away? Well Jonah thought he had a **choice**. This is where Jonah should have prayed for help and strength to carry out the mission, but he left it until he got himself into serious trouble inside the fish before he prayed.

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## With God the unbelievable happens when you least expect it

Habakkuk 1 and 3:13-19

**H**ow often have we thought how on earth can something like this be? Something beyond our thoughts or understanding a few years ago is now commonplace. Being able to walk outside in England and speak to someone in Australia, just as clear as if they were walking by the side of you.

Being able to see events happen all over the world as they happen from the comfort of our sitting room. So many inventions to make our lives easier, save us time, new advances in medicine, etc. But at the same time there is so much evil, and bad things being developed- new ways of killing people, drugs available in our schools and streets, people using religion to justify killing many people, children being abused and ill treated. Political leaders living in luxury while the countrymen starve. People trafficking, etc.

How many of us would have believed it if someone had told us two years ago that the worlds financial organisations would collapse and the world sent into a depression not seen for over 60 years. The world seems to be getting worse in many areas and better in others. Habakkuk saw much of what we have seen throughout our lives with - evil nations rising up, political leaders lining their own pockets and the law of being of no effect to many, injustice everywhere.

Then the Lord said – “Look at the nations and watch and be to-